IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in said array of nodes[[;]], said system comprising:

(i) a graphical user interface for displaying a representation of at least some of said nodes as a two-dimensional display array of display points within a display area on a user display;

(ii) a user control for defining a two-dimensional region of said display area; [[and]]

(iii) a detector for detecting those display points lying within said two-dimensional region of said display area; and

(iv) said graphical user interface also concurrently displaying a list of data representing information items, being those information items mapped onto said nodes corresponding to display points displayed within said two-dimensional region of said display area.

Claim 2 (Original): A system according to claim 1, in which said information items are mapped to nodes in said array on the basis of a feature vector derived from each information item.

Claim 3 (Original): A system according to claim 2, in which said feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features.

Claim 4 (Original): A system according to claim 3, in which said information items comprise textual information, said feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of words.

Claim 5 (Original): A system according to claim 1, in which said information items comprise textual information, said nodes being mapped by mutual similarity of at least a part of said textual information.

Claim 6 (Original): A system according to claim 4, in which said information items are preprocessed for mapping by excluding words occurring with more than a threshold frequency amongst said set of information items.

Claim 7 (Original): A system according to claim 4, in which said information items are preprocessed for mapping by excluding words occurring with less than a threshold frequency amongst said set of information items.

Claim 8 (Original): A system according to claim 4, comprising:

(i) search logic for carrying out a word-related search of said information items;

(ii) said search logic and said graphical user interface being arranged to co-operate so that only those display points corresponding to information items selected by said search are displayed.

Claim 9 (Original): A system according to claim 1, in which said mapping between information items and nodes in said array includes a dither component so that substantially identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in said array.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a user control for choosing one or more information items from said list; and

said graphical user interface being operable to alter said manner of display within said display area of display points corresponding to selected information items.

Claim 11 (Original): A system according to claim 10, in which said graphical user interface is operable to display in a different colour and/or intensity those display points corresponding to information items chosen within said list.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An information storage system in which a set of distinct information items are processed so as to map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, such that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes[[;]], the system comprising:

a generator configured to generate a feature vector derived from each information item, the feature vector for an information item representing a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features; and

mapping logic configured to map each feature vector to a node in the array of nodes, the mapping between information items and nodes in the array including a dither component so that substantially identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in the array.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 12, comprising:

logic configured to map a newly received information item to a node in the array of nodes;

a mapping error detector <u>configured</u> to detect a mapping error as the newly received

information item is so mapped; and

logic, responsive to a detection that the mapping error exceeds a threshold error

amount, for initiating a remapping process of the set of information items and the newly

received information item.

Claim 14 (Original): A portable data processing device comprising a system

according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Original): Video acquisition and/or processing apparatus comprising a

system according to claim 1.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information storage method in which a set of

distinct information items are processed so as to map to respective nodes in an array of nodes

by mutual similarity of the information items, such that similar information items map to

nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes[;] the method comprising the steps of:

generating a feature vector derived from each information, the feature vector for an

information item representing a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information

item, of each of a group of information features; and

mapping each feature vector to a node in the array of nodes, the mapping between

information items and nodes in the array including a dither component so that substantially

identical information items tend to map to closely spaced but different nodes in the array.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An information retrieval method in which a set of

distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity

of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions

in said array of nodes[[;]], the method comprising:

(i) displaying a representation of at least some of said nodes as a two-dimensional

display array of display points within a display area on a user display;

(ii) defining, with a user control, a two-dimensional region of said display area;

(iii) detecting those display points lying within said two-dimensional region of said

display area; and

(iv) displaying, concurrently with the representation of at least some of said nodes, a

list of data representing information items, being those information items mapped onto nodes

corresponding to display points displayed within said two-dimensional region of said display

area.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Computer software having program code for

carrying out a method according to claim 16.

Claim 19 (Original): A providing medium for providing program code according to

claim 18.

Claim 20 (Original): A medium according to claim 19, said medium being a storage

medium.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): Computer software having a program code for

carrying out the method according to claim 17.